

MEMORIAL

OF

COMMODORE DANIEL T. PATTERSON,

For remuneration for extra expenses incurred by him as commanding officer of the Mediterranean squadron.

MAY 4, 1836.

Referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs, and ordered to be printed.

To the honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled :

The memorial and petition of Daniel T. Patterson, a captain in the navy of the United States,

RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH :

That your memorialist, then being a captain in the navy of the United States, was appointed to the command of the naval force of the United States in the Mediterranean sea, and that he assumed that command in the month of July, 1832; that he accepted said appointment, under the hope that the same allowances of pay, &c. would be extended to him as it had been the practice of the Government to extend to those officers who had preceded him in the command of that important station. Such allowances, your memorialist was aware, under ordinary circumstances, were sufficient to meet the constant calls made upon the resources of the officer in command.

With this hope, your memorialist, anxious to discharge his obligations to the nation and the Government, accepted the appointment, and entered upon the duties of that station.

Whilst performing the duties appertaining to him as commander of a squadron, he was exposed to incur expenses on several occasions, without which they could not have been properly discharged. Of these expenses, your memorialist begs leave to submit a schedule for the consideration of your honorable bodies, and to solicit relief, as they were contracted unavoidably, and for the honor and advantage of the nation; and as allowances have been frequently made to officers in similar cases, your memorialists trusts that his petition will not be viewed as unreasonable. And your memorialist begs leave further to state that peculiar circumstances, which may be supposed not to have been contemplated by your honorable bodies, have rendered his emoluments during the period

in which he was in command of the Mediterranean squadron, much less than those of any officer who preceded him for the same length of time.

Your memorialist asks the consideration of your honorable bodies to the facts set forth in the accompanying schedule, by which it will be seen that he received and entertained on board of his ship, and was presented, with his officers, to the heads of the Governments of the various countries where the presence of the squadron was directed and required, either for the general protection of the commercial interests of his own Government or in furtherance of particular and important objects.

Under such circumstances, your memorialist believes it scarcely necessary to observe that such visits are frequently proffered, that they cannot well be refused, and that the expense incident thereto is not small; your memorialist may also be permitted to express the opinion that they are advantageous, and that the respect for our naval superiority thus imposed upon the minds of men who arrange and conduct the affairs of nations, by displaying the efficiency of our equipments, and the order and discipline of our crews, must be highly beneficial in preventing aggressions upon our commerce, and in securing immediate reparation for those committed. Such, indeed, would seem to have been the view taken by your honorable bodies, from the liberal appropriations which have been made to cover expenses incurred for these purposes by commanders of squadrons and even of single ships.

Your memorialist further represents that, in compliance with the immemorial customs of oriental civility, he was obliged to make presents, not only to many of the high dignitaries of Turkey, Egypt, and Barbary, with whom he held intercourse, but also to their inferior officers and attendants. Some of these presents were costly, others were of less value; but their multiplication made the total amount formidable to the purse of a private individual. To have omitted such presents, would have given offence, and to have alleged that he was prevented by the fundamental law of his country from receiving others in return, would have had no effect in diminishing the difficulty. The usage has been long established and is universally complied with, in treating with governments in which the feelings of individuals have infinitely more weight than either justice or policy. A nation which presents a bold front can well afford to make such trifling concessions.

In addition to the expenses incurred by his intercourse with foreigners, your memorialist has further to state that it became necessary for him to transport an agent of our own Government, with his family, to the place of his official residence, at a time when circumstances would have rendered his conveyance by a private vessel impolitic.

Such were the circumstances occasioning the expenses for which your memorialist now solicits relief. His receipts from the Government, compared with those of his predecessors in the same command, will serve to show how little your memorialist could afford to bear them.

From the 1st of July, 1832, when your memorialist assumed the command of the Mediterranean squadron, until the 3d of March, 1835, when the new law regulating the pay of persons engaged in the naval service took effect, your memorialist received twelve hundred dollars annually, and sixteen rations per diem, which, at twenty-five cents each ration, made the whole amount to \$2,660 a year. This was the rate of pay of

a captain in command of a squadron, as fixed by the early regulations for the navy; but two thousand dollars were annually allowed to such officers in addition, down to 1826, in lieu of a per centage for drawing bills, and after the suppression of that allowance, the captains who successively commanded the Mediterranean squadron between the years 1828 and 1832, received sums for diplomatic services, which rendered their receipts proportionably greater than those of your memorialist will be, should his petition be granted.

By the law of March 3d, 1835, your memorialist received at the rate of \$4,000 per annum while in command of the squadron; by the second section of that law he is precluded from all further allowances either for drawing bills or for any extra service whatever, except mileage when travelling under orders. It would appear, from the terms of this act, that your honorable bodies had been aware of the inadequacy of the former stated pay, and determining to preclude allowances in future, had supplied their place by an appropriate augmentation.

If this view be correct, your memorialist trusts that your honorable bodies will not render his case the only exception to a rule which has thus been formed upon principle, confining him to an allowance inferior to those heretofore made, or hereafter to be made.

Your memorialist also begs leave to observe that, should his petition be granted, his whole receipts would even then be less than they would have been had his pay throughout the period of his command been regulated by the existing law.

DANL. T. PATTERSON,
Captain U. S. Navy.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 3, 1836.

The United States to Commodore Daniel T. Patterson, Dr.

To extra expenses officially and unavoidably incurred by him while commanding the United States naval force in the Mediterranean in the years 1832, '33, '34, and '35, (particulars of which are stated below,) \$3,578.

Reception of Don Miguel in August, 1832, then King de facto of Portugal, and suite, on board the frigate United States, at Lisbon.

Prime Minister and Admiral of Tripoli detained on board the frigate United States three days from bad weather off Tripoli, and presents to attendants of the Bashaw of Tripoli when I visited him in December, 1832.

Presents (bayshees) to attendants as pipe-bearers, coffee-bearers, &c. of the Bey of Tunis, when presented to him in December, 1832.

Reception of the King of Greece and suite on board the frigate United States, in September, 1833, at Napoli de Romaina.

Reception of and collation to the great officers of state of the Sublime Porte, representing the Sultan, and numerous suites on a visit to the frigate United States; presents to their officers and suites, and a sword to the aid-de-camp of the Pacha of the Dardanelles, in November, 1833, and presents to his suite; and expenses attending the presentation of myself and officers to the Sultan.

Preparing for the reception of Mohammed Ali, the Viceroy of Egypt, and suite for a promised visit to the United States ship Delaware, and presents to his attendants when presented to him in August, 1834.

Transportation and finding of D. S. McCauley, Esq., consul for Tripoli, and family of eleven persons, and baggage, from Malta to Tripoli, in July, 1835.

Reception of and expenses attending a visit from the King of Naples, three brothers, uncle, and suites, on board the United States ship Delaware, and presentation at court of myself and officers, in September, 1835.

To difference of pay between a captain in command of a squadron, and a captain on other duty, from the 25th of October, 1835, to the 9th of March, 1836, inclusive, viz :

One hundred and thirty-six days, at \$4,000 per annum, pay of a captain in command of a squadron	-	-	-	-	\$1,490 41
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One hundred and thirty-six days, at \$3,500 per annum, pay of a captain on other duty	-	-	-	-	1,304 10
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Difference	-	-	-	-	<u>\$186 31</u>
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